

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W

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R 151550Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6209

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: GSE PROGRAM

FOR: STATE FOR CU/EE

LENINGRD FOR P&C

PASS IREX

1. MGU NOTIFIED JUNIOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS JANUARY 14 THAT THOSE WITH DEPENDENTS MUST PAY THIRTY RUBLES PER MONTH RENT FOR THE EXTRA ROOM THEY RECEIVE AT THE MGU DORMITORY, BEGINNING THIS MONTH. CHECKS WITH OTHER EMBASSIES CONFIRM THAT RULE BEING APPLIED ALL COUNTRIES.

2. MHE, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY INQUIRY, SAID RULE HAD BEEN ON BOOKS IN PAST, BUT WAS NOT APPLIED TO ALL STUDENTS. MINISTRY HAD MADE CROSS-THE-BOARD DECISION TO APPLY IT TO ALL.

3. AS DEPT/IREX AWARE "CONDITIONS" SECTION OF AGREEMENT (PAGE 33-34) SPECIFIES FREE HOUSING FOR GRANTEE, BUT ONLY "ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING SUITABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPOUSES AND MINOR CHILDREN..." JUXTAPOSITION OF WORDING CLEARLY IMPLIES GRANTEE MAY HAVE TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL HOUSING.

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4. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY ANY ACTION WOULD CAUSE

MINISTRY TO REVERSE DECISION, WHICH PROBABLY RELATED TO INCREASING PRESSURES FOR DEPENDENT HOUSING. HOWEVER THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION REGARDING DATE, SINCE ARBITRARY NATURE OF IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE DOES NOT ALLOW FOR STUDENT BUDGETING. STUDENTS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE PAYMENT BEFORE END-OF-MONTH ARRIVAL OF IREX REPRESENTATIVES. SUGGEST THEY RAISE DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH AIM OF POSTPONING NEW CHARGE UNTIL BEGINNING OF NEXT SEMESTER. IREX SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER, IF FEE IS PERMANENT, SOME COMPENSATION CAN BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS.

5. LENINGRAD EXCHANGEES HAVE RECEIVED NO SIMILAR NOTICE, BUT DEPENDENTS THERE AR QUARTERED IN SAME ROOM WITH EXCHANGEES. STOESEL

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